

2-2004

## Explorer News February 2004

La Salle University

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### Recommended Citation

La Salle University, "Explorer News February 2004" (2004). *Explorer News*. 9.  
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# EXPLORER NEWS



The Newsletter of the Explorer Club

February 2004



Dr. Thomas  
Brennan

## Message from Dr. Tom Brennan, Director of Athletics

Greetings from 20th Street and Olney Avenue.

The fall season was a rewarding one. It was mixed in terms of success on the athletic fields, but not in terms of success in the classroom or with regard to the efforts of our student athletes and coaches to enhance neighborhood activity.

In the academic area, several of our teams received National Recognition for their work in the classroom with field hockey and men's tennis leading the way. The field hockey team accumulated a 3.47 GPA in the fall, while the men's tennis team had a 3.38. Several athletes earned A-10 and MAAC academic accolades and men's soccer senior Matt Hemberger was named to the Middle Atlantic Regional All-American Academic Team. The NCAA reported La Salle's 10-year graduation rate for student-athletes at 84%. La Salle student-athletes continue to impress.

Special congratulations are due to Charles Torpey, the head coach of the men's and women's cross country teams, and all team members. Torpey led his men's team to a third straight A-10 Championship and won his sixth Coach of the Year honor. Our women's team finished third at the Atlantic 10 championships with Sheila Klick winning the race for the second straight year. Sheila placed 12th at Mid-Atlantic Regionals and went on to compete at Nationals, finishing in 77th place out of 252 runners.

I would also like to congratulate Head Volleyball Coach Dave Stever and Head Women's Soccer Coach Paul Royal, as they completed their first seasons at La Salle. I would also like to wish Head Baseball Coach, Lee Saverio, good luck as he prepares for his first season as head coach this spring.

In this issue of the Explorer Club Newsletter, we will unveil our new athletic logo. I am very pleased with all of the hard work that went into the creation of our new marks. We have received nothing but positive feedback from all of our special constituent groups.

La Salle Athletes were also recognized for their community service efforts. For the third consecutive year, La Salle has been recognized by the National Consortium for Academic and Sports for our Community Service and Outreach Program (Project Teamwork). La Salle was in good company at a recent awards ceremony in Orlando with schools such as Nebraska, Georgia, Rhode Island, Kent State, Boston College, Louisville, Penn State, and Michigan State to name a few.

As always, I want to thank the Explorer Club membership for your continued support. Kudos to the work of the Explorer Club Board, in particular, for enhancing the Autumn Auction. Keep up the good work. We can't do it without you.

Sincerely,

*Tom Brennan*

## La Salle Athletics Logo Unveiling



The La Salle University Athletic Department unveiled its new athletic logo on Wednesday, February 25 as part of festivities surrounding its Big Five matchup with the Temple Owls. During the last few months, athletic department officials have met with various constituent groups reviewing the progression of the new athletic logo design. At an Explorer Club Board of Directors meeting, Jim McManus, President of the Explorer Club stated, "The new logo represents an effective blend of a fresh look for La Salle Athletics without losing an appreciation for the school's tradition."

The development of the athletic logo comes on the heels of the unveiling of a new university logo. Joe Donovan, La Salle's Assistant Vice-President for Marketing and Communication, stated "It was necessary for the university to create an identity that would distinguish itself from other Lasallian institutions and as we completed the process with the new university mark, we able to give the athletic program a new identity, working closely with the university system."

The design firm 160over90 was contracted by the university to complete the University and Athletic marks. In addition, the company also developed marks for the university's 140th anniversary and 50th anniversary of the 1954 NCAA championship.





## Ask Buck

Buck has a few congratulations - somewhat belated - to send to a current Explorer and a former one, and we're using this as a two-part La Salle Trivia Test for you.

First: As a sophomore on the 2002-03 women's basketball team, Jill Marano led all NCAA Division 1-A free throw shooters with a percentage of 94.6 (88-for-93). She became the third La Salle women's player to earn that honor. The question: Who were the two previous winners?

Next trivia question: Tom Filer, from the Class of 1978, is this Explorer Club Newsletter issue's "Where Are They Now" subject. He is one of three La Salle pitchers to make it to the big leagues. Who were the other two? Hint: One was long, long ago. The other was within the last 15 years.

Congratulations go to Tom. As you can read in the story about him, he has joined the Phillies' minor league staff and will be the pitching coach for the Class A Lakewood (NJ) Blueclaws in the South Atlantic League.

While Buck's handing out kudos, here's one to Bill Campo, Class of 1970. Bill is the volunteer director of the Philly 6 Coaches vs. Cancer, a part of the national group which is doing a great job in fund-raising to offset that dreaded disease. Locally, Bill is expanding it to include high school coaches. In his other life, Campo is director of Mid-Atlantic Credit Corp., a medical billing service.

One of the Coaches vs. Cancer functions Buck always looks forward to is the breakfast on the Palestra Court, the day after NCAA Selection Sunday. This season's date is March 15 at 8 AM. That's pretty early for Buck but we'll be there.

Jill Marano's La Salle predecessors as the NCAA's top foul shooters were Tracey Sneed, in 1987-88 with 91.5 (151-165) and Jenn Cole in 1992-93 with 90.9 (150-155). Incidentally, Marano's percentage is the second highest-ever behind Ginny Doyle, Richmond, 1991-92 95% (96-101)

La Salle's other two pitching contributions to the major leagues were: Southpaw Frank Hoerst a product of Northeast Catholic High, who pitched for the Phillies five seasons before and after World War II, appearing in 98 games. During the war, he reached the rank of Navy Lieutenant, serving as a gunnery officer. He also coached La Salle's baseball team from 1953 to 1958.

Lefty Frank DiMichele, from St. John Neumann High, was on the Explorer staff in 1984 and coached the Explorers in 1996 and 1997. His brief major league visit was in 1988 with the California Angels. One of his self-proclaimed "highlights" was giving up Jose Canseco's second home run in the season when the slugger went on to become the first major leaguer to hit 40 homers and steal 40 bases.

## AUTUMN AUCTION RECAP

How would you have liked four tickets to the sold-out, emotional Phillies' farewell to the Vet last baseball season?

How about dinner for 10 (yes, TEN) at a choice restaurant, or dinner for six at your house?

Golf for you and a few friends at one of several outstanding area courses?

Tickets to La Salle men's basketball games, the annual Big Classic tripleheader at the Palestra, the 76ers, or choice seats at Flyers and 76ers; games, including parking...or how about tickets to the WWE Smackdown (that's wrestling to you uninformed)?

You could have had autographed shirts from Donovan McNabb or Jim Thome, or autographed basketballs from Hall of Famer Billy Cunningham or the Philly 6 Coaches.

And several visits to the shore or other resort areas.

It was all there for you at Tom Gola Arena during the La Salle Explorers' Club second annual auction, where interested bidders (silent and otherwise) gobbled up these and other outstanding items.

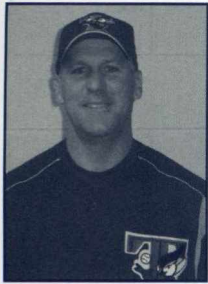
If you did miss it, here's an early notice for your next choice. Mark your calendars now:

**2004 Autumn Auction and Reception**  
**Saturday, September 25, 6:00 PM**  
**at Tom Gola Arena.**

Also, if you are able to help us gather items for the fall auction, please contact Peter D'Orazio at 215-951-1545 or email [dorazio@lasalle.edu](mailto:dorazio@lasalle.edu).



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Tom Filer

By: Bob Vetrone Sr.

*In the backyard make-believe baseball games of his youth, the Phillies never lost.*

*"We beat everybody," said Tom Filer, "including those great Cincinnati Reds teams with Johnny Bench and Tony Perez."*

*Now, decades later, Filer, from La Salle's Class of '78, has a chance to help the future Phillies win real games against real opponents. He is the pitching coach of the Lakewood (NJ) Blueclaws, the Phillies' farm team in the Class A South Atlantic League.*

*After earning a Marketing degree from La Salle, and following his Explorers' baseball career, he knew what he wanted to do.*

*"I always had aspirations to be in baseball," said the Archbishop Ryan High grad, "and when my playing days were over, I had the fortune of hooking on as a coach in several major league systems. Now, after about 10 years, I was able to hook on in the Phillies' system. I could hardly wait to get to spring training and getting to work with our young pitching talent. At the Class A level, you see many pitchers with great stuff but many of them don't know how to use it."*

*In his own major league career, Filer compiled a 22-17 record stretched out over six seasons. Included in that was a 7-0 season with the Toronto Blue Jays in 1985. He started his big league career with the Chicago Cubs, then spent time with the Milwaukee Brewers and wound up with the New York Mets.*

*Filer's stats at La Salle were not overwhelming, finishing with a 4.8 Earned Run Average, so it was no surprise he wasn't drafted.*

*"But I was pitching in an independent (Pen Del) League," he said, "and there was a Yankees' scout at one of our games to scout a player on the other team. I struck him out twice and the scout eventually signed me to a contract, although I never got to play with the Yankees."*

*Filer, now 46, fondly remembers his days at La Salle, especially working under head coach Gene McDonnell and his staff.*

*"Gene, and his two assistants, Lefty Ervin and Butch McNally, were a big help. Lefty and Butch both had been pitchers so I learned a lot from them," he said.*

*During the off-season, Tom stays in shape at his brother Bob's physical therapy unit (Comprehensive Sports Care Specialists, in Bensalem and Newtown). And just to keep even busier, he helps his wife, Barbara, in her business -- Incredibly Edible Delites. She creates flower displays out of fruit.*

*Meanwhile, he could wait to get his teeth -- or his Blueclaws -- into his new job.*



**The 1954 NCAA Champions were honored at halftime of the La Salle-Dayton Men's Basketball game on January 24, 2004**







*The Newsletter of the  
Explorer Athletic Club  
February 2004*

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**La Salle University  
Department of Athletics  
Hayman Center  
1900 West Olney Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19141-1199**



***A Message From Peter D'Orazio,  
Assistant Athletic Director***

There is much excitement surrounding the athletic program these days. First, the much anticipated athletic logo will be unveiled during the La Salle /Temple on February 25. The athletic logo follows the footsteps of the newly developed university logo. (See story inside this newsletter). The winter sports, men's basketball, women's basketball, indoor track and swimming are gearing up for the Atlantic 10 championships and the spring sports are waiting for the snow to melt to begin outdoor practices.

There is also much excitement surrounding the Explorer Club. Following the success of this year's auction, the auction committee has begun making preparations for the 2004 Autumn Auction. The committee's primary focus will be to increase the number of items available and spread the word to maximize attendance. This is necessary for the event to continue to grow.

Also, the annual spring fund drive is fast approaching. The Explorer Club Board of Directors will be hard at work making contacts with existing and potentially new Explorer Club members.

If you are interested in participating in the spring fund drive or serving on the auction committee, please contact me directly at 215-951-1545.

Thank you for your continued support

***Upcoming Explorer Club Events***

***Wednesday, February 25  
Explorer Club President's Reception***

***Wednesday, March 31  
Explorer Club Bus Trip @ Fordham***

***Tuesday, March 23  
Blue Chip Reception***

***Thursday, April 22  
Explorer Club Fund Drive Kick Off Party***

***Thursday, May 6/20  
Fund Drive Reporting Session***

***Thursday, May 27  
Explorer Club Fund Drive Victory  
Celebration***

***Saturday, September 25  
Explorer Club Autumn Auction***